United Nations S/2017/218

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 15 March 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

At 1320 hours on Wednesday, 15 March 2017, in an ignominious criminal act, a suicide terrorist used an explosive vest to blow himself up in a crowd of people at the main court building in the city of Damascus, killing dozens of civilians — including lawyers, petitioners and employees — and injuring dozens more.

That incident was followed by a second despicable terrorist attack in which another suicide terrorist blew himself up at a popular restaurant in the Rabwah area near the Damascus city centre.

Those two terrorist attacks coincide with the ongoing bombardments by armed terrorist groups of several residential Damascus neighbourhoods with rockets and mortar shells. Those bombardments have killed and injured a large number of civilians, and caused extensive damage to public and private property, including medical clinics and service facilities.

The terrorist attacks constitute the response by the terrorists and their handlers — which include the regimes in Ankara, Riyadh, Doha and other places — to the recent successes of the Syrian Arab Army and its allies against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and associated entities in several parts of Syria. The attacks are intended to increase the suffering of Syrians and to derail efforts to bring the Syrian crisis to an end. It comes as no surprise that the terrorist murderers should time their crimes to coincide with the resumption of the Geneva and Astana talks aimed at finding a solution to the Syrian crisis.

The failure by certain parties to the Astana and Geneva talks to dissociate themselves from terrorist organizations is clear evidence that those parties and the terrorists who committed these cowardly crimes are inextricably linked. Meanwhile, certain Western States are blocking the Security Council from condemning terrorist crimes against the Syrian people and State, which sends a message to the terrorists to continue their terrorist acts against the Syrian people, and encourages their handlers and sponsors to persist in their pro-terrorism policies, which are

threatening international peace and security and undermining any chance of reaching a political solution to the crisis in Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that there is no pretext whatsoever that can make it acceptable for certain States to justify the vicious crimes being committed by terrorist groups in Syria. Failure to support the efforts of the Syrian Government to fight terrorism can only be interpreted as support for terrorism and the terrorist handlers. Syria yet again stresses that it will never abandon its war against terrorism, no matter what the challenges and no matter what diversionary tactics are used by certain Security Council States and the global terrorist propaganda machine.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Secretary-General and the Security Council to condemn this cowardly terrorist attack in no uncertain terms and to refrain from providing cover for its perpetrators and the Governments and regimes that back terrorists. Syria expects the international community to consolidate its struggle against terrorism by coordinating and cooperating fully with the Syrian Government. It is also unacceptable and indefensible to ignore the fact that fighting terrorism is the main prerequisite for the restoration of security and stability to Syria and the entire region.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on those States that have blocked the Security Council from taking a clear stand against the terrorist attacks — and against the Governments and regimes of States that support terrorist groups — to put an end to all forms of support, both secret and open, that they provide to terrorist organizations, and to fully implement United Nations counter-terrorism resolutions, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), as well as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the resolution adopted at the conclusion of the fifth United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.